

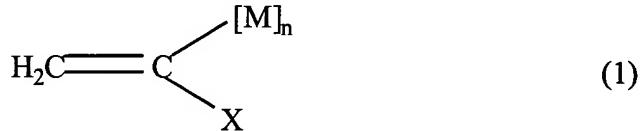
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 and 2 as found below. Additionally, please add new Claim 12 as found below. A marked up version showing each of the amendments is found below as part of a full set of claims showing the status of each claim and the new Claim 12.

1. (Amended) A method for producing an aqueous resin dispersion composition comprising:

preparing a monomer mixture containing a first monomer having a carboxyl group and a second monomer having a hydrophobic group, the monomer mixture containing the first monomer in a proportion of 10 to 75% by mole;

forming a macromonomer by radical polymerizing the monomer mixture at a temperature of from 180 to 350°C, wherein the macromonomer has an ethylenically unsaturated bond at an end and is prepared in the absence of a chain transfer agent, said macromonomer represented by the following formula (1),



where X represents a polar group, M represents a monomer unit, and the character n stands for a natural number representing the degree of polymerization;

neutralizing the macromonomer to obtain a neutralized macromonomer having an ethylenically unsaturated bond at least at one end thereof; and

emulsion polymerizing at least one vinyl monomer in an aqueous solvent using the neutralized macromonomer as an emulsifier.

2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein [the emulsion polymerizing includes:

preparing] an aqueous solution of the neutralized macromonomer is prepared prior to emulsion polymerizing the at least one vinyl monomer. [; and

adding at least one vinyl monomer continuously or intermittently to the aqueous solution of the neutralized macromonomer.]

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the emulsion polymerizing includes:

preparing a dispersion solution including the neutralized macromonomer, at least one vinyl monomer and water; and

adding the dispersion solution continuously or intermittently to a reactor vessel charged with water.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the emulsion polymerizing includes:

starting emulsion polymerization reaction by charging the neutralized macromonomer, at least one vinyl monomer and water to a reactor vessel.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the emulsion polymerizing includes:

preparing a neutralized macromonomer solution;

placing water and a part of the neutralized macromonomer solution in a reactor vessel; and

adding a vinyl monomer and the rest of the neutralized macromonomer solution continuously or intermittently to the reactor vessel.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein a base selected from the group consisting of ammonia and a low boiling-point amine compound having a boiling point of 140°C or lower is used in the neutralizing.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the neutralized macromonomer has a number average molecular weight of 500 to 5000.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the neutralized macromonomer used in the emulsion polymerizing is 0.5 to 80 parts by weight, per 100 parts by weight of the vinyl monomer.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first monomer is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid,

methacrylic acid, crotonic acid, vinylacetic acid, acryloxypropionic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, mesaconic acid, citraconic acid, itaconic acid, and maleic anhydride.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the second monomer is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of monomers having solubility to water of 2% wt or less at 20°C.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the macromonomer has ethylenically unsaturated bonds at least at two ends.

12. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein at least one vinyl monomer is added continuously or intermittently to the aqueous solution of the neutralized macromonomer during emulsion polymerizing.